

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-31 as amended are directed to statutory subject matter, namely a method that utilizes a computer system to enable a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

Claims 1-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-31 as amended particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §112 for being non-enabling. Claims 1-31 as amended are enabling. Claims 1-31 as amended utilize a computer system to enable a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like them mail delivered.

Claims 1-14 and 20-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Dimitri Kanevsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,777).

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 4, lines 32-36:

"At post office **14** an automatic process means **42** identifies whether the paper mail should be sent via surface mail routine or a e-mail via routine. Instructions on how to send a letter are left on the cover or envelope of the paper mail by the sender."

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 1, lines 33-48:

"Another object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends an internet message to a post office including the post mail address for delivery of the message. The post office forwards the internet message via e-mail to the internet equipped post office that is the closest to the addressee. This post office that is closed [sic] to the addressee downloads the internet message, prints a hard copy on a paper, encloses it in an

envelope and delivers the hard copy to the address via usual local mail.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends paper mail to an internet equipped post office. The post office electronically scans the paper mail and forwards the scanned information data either to the address directly via the internet or via an internet equipped post office that is local to the addressee."

Kanevsky discloses a system in which a sender uses the internet to help in the delivery of physical mail.

Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate the method claimed by Applicant in claims 1-31 as amended, namely, Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier. The recipient determines the manner in which mail is delivered in Applicant's claimed invention, whereas in Kanevsky, the sender determines the manner in which mail is delivered.

Claims 15-19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

Egendorf discloses the following in column 2, lines 51-65:

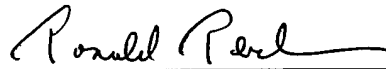
"In accordance with the present invention, a customer desiring to purchase goods and services over the Internet has prearranged access to the Internet through the services of an Internet access provider. Such providers can be, for example, companies whose only business is to offer connection to the Internet, companies which offer on-line computer services, one of which is connection to the Internet,

cable television companies, or telephone companies. IN arranging for access with such a provider, the customer has agreed with the provider on a method of payment which is, for example, by billing, or charge to a credit card, or charge to an account of the user which could be an account specific to the Internet or could be a more general account, such as an on-line computer services account, a cable television account, a telephone account, or a bank account.

Egendorf discloses an internet billing method. Neither Kanevsky nor Egendorf, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the invention claimed by Application in claims 15-19, as amended, namely, the above patents do not disclose or anticipate notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

In view of the above, claims 1-31 as amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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